NUMB. LXXII.

The SPECTATOR.

Genus immortale manet, multoſque per annos
Stat fortuna Domus, & avi numerantur avorum. Virg.

Wedneſday, May 23. 1711.

HAving already given my Reader an Account of ſeveral extraordinary Clubs both ancient and modern, I did not deſign to have troubled him with any more Narratives of this Nature; but I have lately received Informations of a Club which I can call neither ancient nor modern, but I dare ſay will be no leſs ſurpriſing to the Reader than it was to my ſelf; for which Reaſon I ſhall communicate it to the Publick as one of the greateſt Curioſities in its Kind.

A Friend of mine complaining of a Tradeſman who was related to him, a ter having repreſented him as a very idle worthleſs Fellow, that neglected his Family, and ſpent moſt of his Time over a Bottle, was, to conclude his Character, that he was a Member of the EVERLASTING CLUB. So very odd a Name raiſed my Curioſity to enquire into the Nature of a Club that had ſuch a ſounding Name; to which my Friend gave me the following Account.

THE EVERLASTING CLUB conſiſts of an hundred Members, who divide the whole twenty four Hours among them in ſuch a Manner, that the Club ſits Day and Night from one End of the Year to the other, no Party preſuming to riſe till they are relieved by thoſe who are in courſe to ſucceed them. That is to ſay, a Member of the EVERLASTING Club never wants Company; for tho' he is not up himſelf, he is ſure to find ſome that are; ſo that if he be diſpoſed to take a Whet, a Nooning, Evening's Draught, or a Bottle after Midnight, he goes to the Club and finds a Knot of Friends to his Mind.

There is a Maxim in this Club that the Steward never dies; for as they ſucceed one another by way of Rotation, no Man is to quit the great Elbow-chair which ſtands at the upper End of the Table till his Succeſſor is in a Readineſs to fill it; inſomuch that there has not been a *Sede vacante* in the Memory of Man.

This Club was inſtituted towards the End (or, as ſome of them ſay, about the Middle) of the Civil Wars, and continued without Interruption till the Time of the *Great Fire*, which burnt them out and diſperſed them for ſeveral Weeks. The Steward at that Time maintained his Poſt till he had like to have been blown up with a neighbouring Houſe, (which was demoliſhed in order to ſtop the Fire;) and would not leave the Chair at laſt till he had emptied all the Bottles upon the Table, and received repeated Directions from the Club to withdraw himſelf. This Steward is frequently talked of in the Club, and looked upon by every Member of it as a greater Man, than the famous Captain that was burnt in his Ship becauſe he would not quit it without Orders. It is ſaid that towards the Cloſe of 1700, being the great Year of Jubilee, the Club had it under Conſideration whether they ſhould break up or continue their Seſſion; but after many Speeches and Debates it was at length agreed to ſit out the other Century. This Reſolution paſſed in a general Club *Nemine Contradicente.*

Having given this ſhort Account of the Inſtitution and Continuation of the EVERLASTING CLUB, I ſhould here endeavour to ſay ſomething of the Manners and Characters of its ſeveral Members, which I ſhall do according to the beſt Lights I have received in this Matter.

It appears by their Books in general, that ſince their firſt Inſtitution they have ſmoaked Fifty Tun of Tobacco; drank Thirty thouſand Butts of Ale, One thouſand Hogſheads of Red Port, Two hundred Barrels of Brandy, and a Kilderkin of ſmall Beer: There has been likewiſe a great Conſumption of Cards. It is alſo ſaid, that they obſerve the Law in *Ben. Johnſon's* Club, which orders the Fire to be always kept in (*ſocus perennis eſto*) as well for the Convenience of lighting their Pipes, as to cure the Dampneſs of the Club-Room. They have an old Woman in the Nature of a Veſtal, whoſe Buſineſs it is to cheriſh and perpetuate the Fire, that burns from Generation to

Generation

Generation, and had seen the Glass-house Fires in and out above an Hundred Times.

The EVERLASTING CLUB treats all other Clubs with an Eye of Contempt, and talks even of the *Kit-Cat* and the *October* as of a Couple of Upstarts. Their ordinary Discourse (as much as I have been able to learn of it) turns altogether upon such Adventures as have passed in their own Assembly; of Members that have taken the Glass in their Turns for a Week together without stirring out of the Club; of others that have smoaked an Hundred Pipes at a Sitting; of others that have not missed their Morning's Draught for Twenty Years together: Sometimes they speak in Raptures of a Run of Ale in King *Charles*'s Reign; and sometimes reflect with Astonishment upon Games at Whisk, that have been miraculously recovered by Members of the Society, when in all humane Probability the Case was desperate.

They delight in several old Catches, which they sing at all Hours to encourage one another to moisten their Clay, and grow immortal by drinking; with many other edifying Exhortations of the like Nature.

There are four general Clubs held in a Year, at which Times they fill up Vacancies, appoint Waiters, confirm the old Fire-Maker or elect a new one, settle Contributions for Coals, Pipes, Tobacco, and other Necessaries.

The Senior Member has out-lived the whole Club twice over, and has been drunk with the Grandfathers of some of the present sitting Members.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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For the Benefit of Mr. Corey and Mrs. Willis.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow being Thursday, the 24th of May, will be presented a Comedy call'd, The Marplot: Being the second Part of the Busie-body. The Part of Marplot by Mr. Pack, Don Petriera Mr. Dogget, Collonel Ravelin Mr. Wilks, Charles Gripe Mr. Mills, Don Lopez Mr. Bowen, Lorenzo Mr. Norris, Madamoiselle Joneton Mrs. Bradshaw, Isabinda Mrs. Porter, Donna Perriera Mrs. Santlow, Governante Mrs. Willis.

This Play is sold by Jacob Tonson, at Shakespear's Head over-against Catherine-street in the Strand.

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This Poem is sold by Jacob Tonson, at Shakespear's Head over-against Catherine-street in the Strand.

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